

CANCER OF THE LUNG: An Evaluation of the Problem—Proceedings of the Scientific Session, Annual Meeting, November 3-4, 1953. American Cancer Society, Inc., 527 West 57th Street, New York 19, N. Y., 1956. 322 pages. No charge known.

This interesting monograph considers several aspects of the problem of primary bronchial cancer. There are up-to-date sections on incidence, etiology, methods of detection and methods of treatment.

In discussing the place of tobacco in the etiology of lung cancer, one of the participants refers to statistical study performed in Chicago in 1949 which showed that in a male population of 100,000 in that city, there were 78 cases of cancer of the lung that year, while in the same period of time in the suburbs of Chicago there were only about 17 cases in a similar population; the discussant opined that this suggested the probability that cigarette smoking was of secondary importance compared to air pollution.

Dr. Andervont, in a section on the experimental production of lung tumors, suggests that his readers can relax because the experimental animal has a difficult time in answering questionnaires, never spontaneously smokes cigarettes and studiously avoids the payment of taxes. Dr. H. S. N. Greene discusses his experience with transplants of human lung cancer. In his material, every single one was heterologously transplantable, in contrast to a transplantability rate of only about 50 per cent of epidermoid carcinoma in parts of the body other than the lung. He states that the experimental lung cancer produced by methyl cholanthrene in animals does not have the same identity as the human disease; indeed, he has failed to produce cancer with asbestos, beryllium or tobacco.

Eisenberg of the A.E.C. points out that in this country there have been no cases of lung cancer reported in the relatively large group of workers who handled radium, thorium, and uranium prior to the onset of the atomic energy industry, despite the fact that prior to 1940 about 300,000 pounds of uranium were extracted per year from ores mined on the Colorado plateau.

Counteracting some of these opinions, Wynder, Hammond and others believe that there is a cause and effect relationship of human cancer with cigarette smoking and with certain toxic occupational hazards.

Dr. L. W. Guiss brings the report on the mass survey for the detection of pulmonary disease in Los Angeles up to date. This may be summarized as follows:

Approximately 2,000,000 persons were given minifilms.
64,000 disease suspects were encountered, of which
3,500 were tumor suspects. Of these
340 had tumors confirmed, of which
222 were bronchial carcinomas.
111 of these were subjected to operation.
31 were alive up to 2½ years.

The author points out that if the survey had been confined to persons over the age of 45, and had been repeated every six months for an indefinite period, the yield would, of course, have been greater.

In discussing the problem of early detection of lung cancer, Rigler points out that "the high hopes for the early detection of cancer of the lung through the medium of x-ray surveys have met with considerable disappointment." He illustrates some cases of rather slow growing bronchial carcinoma and discusses the desirability of retaining chest films on adults for several years. Sosman mentions the difficulty of persuading adults to have regular chest roentgenograms, and observes "furthermore, the reading of the routine survey films is usually left to the younger men on the radi-

ological staff because it is a dull, deadly and monotonous job and by its very nature breeds errors arising from inattention . . . my best suggestion on this point is to turn such work over to a well trained woman physician, for the women stand up under deadly routine much better than men." It strikes this reviewer as curious that the actual interpretation of mass surveys is so often eschewed by the persons who recommend them the most.

The modest results obtainable by modern surgery and modern radiotherapy are well summarized in a series of chapters towards the end of the monograph. There are 16 pages with illustrations on each side, most of them very well reproduced. There is no index. Even though this copy of the proceedings reaches publication three years after the actual event, the reviewer regards it as a worthwhile contribution to the literature on the important subject of primary bronchial cancer.

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CLINICAL HEMATOLOGY—Fourth Edition—Maxwell M. Wintrobe, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Medicine and Director Laboratory for the Study of Hereditary and Metabolic Disorders, University of Utah, College of Medicine, Salt Lake City. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1956. Thoroughly Revised, 236 Illustrations and 20 Plates, 18 in Color. 1,184 pages, \$15.00.

Doctor Wintrobe has again taken upon himself the monumental task of reviewing the recent hematologic literature and presenting a new edition of his textbook, which is one of the medical classics. As before, it is comprehensive yet very readable, and the format is essentially the same. New and rewritten sections are those on hemoglobin abnormalities, hemoglobinopathies, hemolytic anemias, blood coagulation and hemorrhagic disorders, and the production and destruction of erythrocytes. The bibliography is extensive with references into 1956. The best of all hematologic texts, this book should be available to all whose work brings them in contact with the blood. This includes medical students, general physicians, internists, hematologists, pathologists, laboratory workers and even surgeons.

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THE RELIEF OF SYMPTOMS—Walter Modell, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Professor, Clinical Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1955. 450 pages, \$8.00.

This book is offered as a practical guide to the problems of providing the patient with relief from his distress as opposed to curing his disease. The author believes that relieving distressing symptoms comprises an exceedingly important part of medical care, and to ignore the reactions of the patient to distress is to deprive him of a significant part of what modern medicine has to offer. The book is an outgrowth of a series of lectures to medical students and will probably be of more use to students than practitioners.

The counsel offered by Dr. Modell typifies what every physician tries to accomplish, whether or not in the exact form suggested by the author. As he himself says, there is no original advice in the book. However, his approach is that of the average experienced and thoughtful doctor.

The book is divided into three parts. First, there are five introductory chapters on general considerations: The meaning of symptoms, their analysis, their importance, the methods of providing relief, and the analysis of response to treatment. These form a basis for the approach to treatment of symptoms in general. The second part comprises 24 chapters, on specific groups of symptoms. The third part is a discussion of cortisone and the masking of symptoms. Everything is nicely pigeon-holed, outlined and summarized. Old wives' tales and pharmacologists' wisdom are discussed and dealt with. With all of this, there is a limited amount of specific advice on individual subjects.